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SENATE BILL 2156  
By Dixon

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to reading instruction.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. On or before July 1, 2003, the Tennessee higher education commission in consultation with the state board of education is directed to complete an analysis of the effectiveness of teacher education programs in instruction of reading and writing at teacher training institutions in this state. The commission shall report on its analysis to the senate and house education committees on or before July 1, 2003.

SECTION 2. On or before July 1, 2003, the Tennessee higher education commission in consultation with the state board of education and the department of education is directed to complete an evaluation of the need for a literacy center housed at an institution of higher education that would develop literacy resources and an internet web site to inform educators of the developments in literacy and reading teaching. The commission shall report on its analysis and recommendations to the senate and house education committees on or before July 1, 2003.

SECTION 3. On or before January 1, 2003, the commissioner of education is directed to develop a plan for training reading coaches. The commissioner shall report on the plan to the senate and house education committees on or before January 15, 2003. The plan shall address

the assignment of reading coaches to each K-8 school in the state. The plan shall provide for selection criteria and training at regional centers. The training shall include pre-training, summer training and evaluation elements. The plan shall identify resources needed for its implementation.

SECTION 4. On or before March 15, 2003, the commissioner of education is directed to have completed a substantive program evaluation of the implementation of the parent involvement programs "Parents as Reading Partners" and "Smart from the Start". The commissioner shall report on the evaluation to the senate and house education committees on or before March 15, 2003.

SECTION 5. On or before January 1, 2003, the department of education in consultation with the state board of education shall evaluate the effectiveness of technology for classroom use and professional development. The evaluation shall include an assessment of use of the ConnectTEN system in such activities. The commissioner shall report on the evaluation to the senate and house education committees on or before January 15, 2003.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 9, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

49-1-909. The office of education accountability shall annually evaluate the reading initiatives of the department of education, the state board of education, and the Tennessee higher education commission. The evaluation shall assess the degree of ongoing collaboration between the department, the board and the commission. The office of education accountability shall report on the evaluations to the senate and house education committees on or before January 30 of each year.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

